

Mayor's Green Ribbon Commission

Meeting notes for June 14, 2005

Location: Seattle Municipal Tower, 40th floor

In attendance:

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| ▪ Chair, Denis Hayes | ▪ Kollin Min |
| ▪ Chair, Orin Smith | ▪ William Ruckelshaus |
| ▪ Jorge Carrasco | ▪ Yalonda Sinde |
| ▪ Grace Crunican | ▪ Greg Smith |
| ▪ Doris Koo | ▪ Anne Steinmann |
| ▪ Rich Feldman | ▪ Linda Strout |
| ▪ KC Golden | ▪ Doug Walker |
| ▪ Anna Gottlieb | ▪ Ben Packard |
| ▪ Michael McGinn | ▪ City Staff: Steve Nicholas, Kim |
| ▪ Dennis McLerran | Drury, John Mauro, Dena Gazin |

Welcome and introductions

Co-chairs Denis Hayes and Orin Smith opened the meeting with a welcome to new Commission members Grace Crunican, Doris Koo & Linda Stout and an update/recap on the Mayor's highly successful Climate Initiative. Denis said the increased profile and visibility of the initiative is both exciting and daunting and he called on the Commission to develop "clever, practical solutions that can be implemented. OSE's Steve Nicholas updated the Commission on U.N. World Environment Day (June 1-5) down in San Francisco and Al Gore's impressive climate presentation. The City hopes to host Mr. Gore in July.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Overview

OSE's Kim Drury presented an overview of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the Seattle region. Key points include:

- Over half of GHG emissions come from transportation sources
- Projected increases in gasoline, natural gas and diesel emissions (mostly due to City growth) will exacerbate conditions
- Reaching a 7% reduction level below 1990 by 2012 will be **difficult**
- The Commission will need to decide on some metrics and a framework for measuring progress

After the presentation, Denis Hayes suggested the Commission break into smaller work groups to come up with recommendations on how best to move forward. Bill Ruckelshaus suggested creating a consistent framework for measuring and tracking global warming pollution reductions (e.g., metrics), after looking at what other cities and organizations (e.g., World Resources Institute) are doing. One option might be to work with other cities that are participating in the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to develop a common greenhouse

gas emissions accounting system. The Commission discussed where Seattle should draw the lines on our inventory (i.e., how big our “bubble” should be), and the importance of seeking a middle ground on the amount of analytical work needed for the Commission to be successful. All recognized that it’s important not to get “bogged down” in technical details. **Rich, Doug, Denis, K.C., Grace and Greg volunteered to serve on a sub-committee to work on this.**

Transportation “Conversation Starter” Overview

OSE’s John Mauro presented a “conversation starter” of transportation-related climate solutions. He discussed what is currently being done around identified issues, and possible new actions that might mitigate GHG emissions. Key transportation-related issues include: public transportation; land use, transportation and parking policies and programs; transportation demand management programs; and clean fuels and clean vehicles

The Commission spent a very productive 35 minutes discussing various facets related to transportation ideas. Suggestions include:

- Improve water transport and connection to freight/rail
- Focus on sidewalks as safe alternative to mobility
- Reduce availability of free parking downtown core
- Assist in state carbon goals
- Improve engine switches with new low-cost technology
- Airport carbon kiosk
- Emission-based license fees
- Flex-bike program (along the lines of Flex Car)
- Pay-as-you-drive auto insurance
- Raise commercial parking tax
- Develop biodiesel market
- Electric/hybrid taxis (incentives for)

Actionable items - Climate Conversation

Lastly, there was discussion about the importance of a robust public education/communications/marketing campaign to promote both awareness and action on climate disruption, and build support for the Commission’s other recommendations. **Mike M., Greg, Yolanda, Anna, Kollin and K.C. (Lisa Andrews) volunteered to work with staff to develop the proposal for such a campaign.**

The Commission will next meet on **Thursday, September 22nd** from **8:30 AM – 11:30 AM** at (tbd – probably REI) to discuss sub-committees findings and discuss next steps in the Commission’s report.